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FINAL REPORT

Grant #: N00014-01-WX-20862

Technical Point of Contact: Dr. Yoko Furukawa

Institution: Naval Research Laboratory

Grant Title: Conference Support for a symposium titled "Biogeochemical Consequences of the Dynamic Interactions between Benthic Infauna, Microbes, and Aquatic Sediments"

Award Period: 1 March 2001 – 30 September 2001

A symposium titled "Biogeochemical Consequences of the Dynamic Interactions between Benthic Infauna, Microbes, and Aquatic Sediments" took place during American Chemical Society National Meeting, San Diego, California, April 1 – 5, 2002. ONR supported the travel of twelve student- and post-doc level scientists.

Total of 18 papers were presented during the three half-day oral sessions, by biogeochemists, marine biologists, and microbiologists from seven different countries. The topics were diverse: they dealt with variety of aquatic sedimentary environments, macrofaunal species, organic compounds, nutrient species, and microbial ecology. However, there was one thing all papers had in common: the papers all focused on the *inter*-actions among macrofauna, microorganisms, and sedimentary chemicals. As a result, this symposium is a significant contribution to the discipline of sedimentary biogeochemistry, because the quantitative descriptions of dynamic interactions between such elements are the next challenge in the comprehensive description of sedimentary chemical mass transfer.

Six selected papers from this symposium have been published in Geochemical Transactions, which is a peer-reviewed journal sponsored by American Chemical Society Division of Geochemistry. The URL for the special issue is:
http://www.rsc.org/is/journals/current/geochem/interactions.htm